Prospects of India's Election to a Permanent Seat in UNO

561. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL:
SHRI V. P. DURAISAMY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the prospects of India's election to a permanent seat in the UNO.

(b) how many countries have, so far, indicated their willingness to support India's candidature; and

(c) what steps are being taken to seek support from the rest of the members?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) There is growing realisation that developing countries must be included if permanent members category of the UN Security council is expanded. However, so far there is no agreement on expansion of the Security Council. Eight countries have so far made public expressions of support at the UN for India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council. These countries are Bhutan, Cuba, Cyprus, Domincan Republic, Laos, Mauritius, Russia and Vietnam. In addition, a number of countries have expressed support for India's candidature during bilateral and international meetings. India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council is taken up at every appropriate opportunity available.

Failure of India's Foreign Policy on Fiji

562. SHRI R. K. ANAND: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a failure of India's foreign policy that the Indian origin Prime Minister of Fiji remained in custody of abductors for long and no action had been taken to ensure safety and security of lives and property of people of Indian origin which has caused tremendous anxiety among their relations in India; and

(b) the steps taken to ensure early release of the Prime Minister